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December 22, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul

Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Cc: Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor

Re: S5064/A8007 - Amendments to the New York State Human Rights Law to provide full protection for domestic workers against all forms of discrimination in the workplace.

Dear Governor Hochul,

As advocates for workplace justice, we write to urge you to sign **S5064/A8007** into law. The bill critically revises the New York State Human Rights Law (New York Executive Law, Article 15) to fully include domestic workers under all its protections, equal to all other workers in the state. During this legislative session, the Senate and Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of passage of S5064/A8007. The bill specifically strikes the exclusion of employers of domestic workers from complying with all the workplace anti-discrimination protections under the State Human Rights Law. Domestic workers are the only group of workers currently denied these vital protections in the state. This amendment to current law is a necessary step to rectify the racist and sexist denial of the right of domestic workers rooted in the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.

Domestic workers are now the only group of workers who do not enjoy all the protections of the state human rights law. S5064/A8007 strikes this exclusion and eliminates the limited coverage that was written in only for domestic workers and consequently treats them equal to all other workers who have full protection under the state human rights law.

There are over 300,000 domestic workers in New York State and each one is an essential worker who helps keep our state running. At A Better Balance, we know that when we value the work of providing care, which has been long marginalized due to sexism and racism, our communities and our state are healthier and stronger. Signing S5064/A8007 will help domestic workers throughout the state feel safe and protected at work.

A Better Balance urges you to sign S5064/A8007 as soon as possible to offer these critical protections to domestic workers—the workers who make all other work possible. This holiday season and beyond, domestic workers deserve to be protected to the full extent of the New York State Human Rights Law.

Sincerely,

A Better Balance